



SHARPE JAMES
MAYOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
07102

May 15, 2002

The Rev. Al Sharpton
President and CEO
National Action Network
1941 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10035

Dear Rev. Sharpton:

Your most heartfelt support and your strong belief in the good work we are doing in New Jersey's premier city helped propel me to victory on Tuesday, May 14, 2002. You were the wind beneath my wings.

The 2002 Mayoral election will go down in history as an affirmation by the citizens of Newark that they are in control of their own destiny. In reelecting me to an unprecedented fifth term, Newark residents have demonstrated their belief in my administration and my ability to move our city forward. Newark is not the same city it was in 1967 or even, 1986. By their vote, Newarkers have recognized that crime is down; that there are more police in their neighborhoods, more people employed in meaningful jobs, and that new housing has transformed every neighborhood of this city. We are going to the movies in Newark. We are going to concerts at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, visiting our acclaimed Newark Museum and Library and roller skating at the Branch Brook Park Roller Rink. Our youngsters have world-class sports facilities in which to play in our neighborhoods, and we are building new schools with the assistance of my friend, Governor James E. McGreevey and the state of New Jersey.

Yet, as we have acknowledged, there is more to do, and I am humbled and pleased that residents have given me the privilege to continue working with and for them in the next four years as we expand our war against crime and continue to enhance and rebuild our neighborhoods. We will build new schools and work to bring our school system back to local control. We will build an arena, bring quality health care to all our residents and redouble our efforts to address lingering social problems.

I am grateful that you stood with me in this election as we shape and execute the projects and programs that will make Newark an urban model for success and revitalization.

Please accept my warmest thanks and heartfelt appreciation and feel free to call upon me, as needed.

Sincerely yours,

Sharpe James
Mayor

Thank you!